

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 31, 2019

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios  
Acting Governor  
Commonwealth of the  
Northern Mariana Islands  
Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting Governor Palacios:

I write to bring good news of an opportunity for the Commonwealth to apply for a non-matching federal grant to better serve the employment needs of Marianas veterans. At my request, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) confirmed that the Commonwealth is eligible for its Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program and will consider an application from the CNMI Department of Labor for funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 which expires September 30, 2019. I respectfully urge the Commonwealth to consider applying for FY 2019 JVSG funding so that our veterans have the same access at home to individualized job placement and career services their stateside and Guam counterparts have during and after their transition to civilian life.

Funding from JVSG would enable the Commonwealth to hire dedicated staff in the Marianas to provide veterans one-on-one support in their job search and assistance with barriers they may face to employment. With JVSG funds, the Commonwealth could hire two types of positions that can be consolidated: Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER). DVOP specialists provide intensive services to disabled or disadvantaged veterans, including formerly incarcerated or lower-income veterans and eligible spouses. LVERs facilitate training, job placement services and conduct outreach to employers on behalf of veteran applicants. USDOL also confirmed that the grant funding amount for territories are determined based on the amount needed to provide grant services as opposed to the unemployment rate-based formula for states.

As the Commonwealth recovers from the impact of Super Typhoon Yutu, I continue to work to ensure the full range of federal programs are available to the Marianas including our veterans. If you have any questions regarding the JVSG program, please let me know or contact the JVSG program lead Ms. Francheska Atchison at [atchison.fran.t@dol.gov](mailto:atchison.fran.t@dol.gov) and (202) 693-4700. I look forward to working with you to provide Marianas veterans access to the services they have earned and deserve.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
Member of Congress

cc: Vicky Benavente, Secretary, CNMI Department of Labor  
Epiphania E. Cabrera Jr., State Clearinghouse Administrator, Office of Grants Management